

AN
EPISTLE
FROM
Benjamin Holme,
BEING A
SALUTATION
TO
FRIENDS
IN
Great - Britain
AND
IRELAND.

LONDON:

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Colony to our Meetings



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T O
FRIENDS.

Dear Friends,
IN that pure Love in which
our Fellowship stands, do
I tenderly salute you, fervently desiring, that Grace, Mercy and Peace may encrease and abound amongst you, and in all the Churches of Christ every where; that so those whom the Lord has gathered by his Divine Power
A 2 may

may shew forth his Praise and Glory.

And *dear Friends*, you that are Members of *Monthly* and *Quarterly Meetings*, I tenderly desire, that you may live under the Exercise of the Power of Truth, and wait for the renewed Visitations of the Love and Goodness of God, that so you may be a Living and Fruitful People. And as you wait to feel the Life and Power of Truth to prevail in your Hearts; so will you be fitted and qualified for every Service which the Lord requires of you. For without Divine Assistance we can do nothing that will
tend

tend to the Praise and Glory of God. Therefore, *Friends*, in all your Meetings, whether they be for Worship, or to maintain good Order in the *Church*, see that you wait to feel the Lord to be with you, and seek for Wisdom and Counsel from him; that so you may in *all things act to his Praise and Glory.*

And you that are as Watchmen in *Israel*, I desire that you may look well to yourselves, and to the *Flock over whom the Holy Ghost hath made you Overseers.* O! that you may be fervently concerned, that a Stop may be put to all wrong Liberty and wrong things, that so the Church of

Christ may appear in her Glory and Beauty : And as the Lord in his Wisdom and Counsel has opened it in the Hearts of his People in divers Places, to visit one another in their Families, I desire that this good Work might be promoted yet more and more in the Churches : for where faithful *Men* and *Women* Visit *Friends Families* in the *Drawings* of the *Love* and *Wisdom* of *God*, they go under a *true Concern*, and visit them in the *Seed of Life*, the *Lord* may make them *instrumental* in his Hand, for the *Gaining upon them* that have gone into wrong Liberty, as well as they may be made help-

helpful to such as Labour under Discouragements, because of the many and various Exercises that they meet with in their Travel and Passage thro' this World.

And, *dear Friends*, let me say to you that meet with renewed Exercises from time to time, and drink deeply of the bitter Waters, be careful that you do not look out at what you meet with, lest the Discourager prevail, to weaken you in your spiritual Travel; but look to him that has hitherto been with you, and made way for you by his Divine Power: for he is able and will bring you through
all

all your Troubles and Exercises, if you follow him faithfully unto the End.

And you that are concerned in the Management of the Affairs of Truth, see that you keep in the meek Spirit of Christ, that what you speak and do may be to the Praise and Glory of God; and be careful to be good Examples in all Respects, and endeavour to bring your Families to *Week-day Meetings*, and watch over them in the Fear of God, and keep them in that *Plainness of Habit and Speech* which Truth leads into, and labour to bring them to a Sense of the *Truth* in their tender Years.

David

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David was concerned for *Solomon* his Son, that he might know his God, and also that he might *serve him in Truth and with a perfect Heart*. And you that are the Children of *Friends*, there are fervent Desires in my Soul for you, that you may fully follow the Lord while you have a Being here; that so he that has blest your faithful Parents may bless you. As the Work of the Day is great, I desire that a holy sense thereof may live upon your Hearts, and that you may feel your Minds engaged in a close Concern, that the *Work of the Lord* might prosper, it would be matter of great Rejoycing
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and Comfort to *those that tra-*
vel in Spirit for the *Prosperity*
 of *Sion*, to see you come up in
 a *holy Zeal* for the *maintain-*
ing of the Testimony of Truth
 in every thing, that so ye may
 abide in the *Lord's everlasting*
Covenant of Peace. I do ten-
 derly intreat, that you may
obey the Lord, and be dutiful
 to *your Parents*, as you ought
 to be careful to *shun all evil*
and loose Company; for keeping
corrupt and bad Company has
 been the Ruin of many: And
 therefore I would have you to
 remember the Counsel, *My*
Son, if Sinners intice thee, con-
sent thou not. O that this may
 be fastned upon all *your Minds!*

I al-

I also greatly desire, that you that are of the *Female Sex* may come up in your Places and Services in the *Church*, for in the Building of the *first Tabernacle* there was a part of the Work *belonged to the Women*; and if you are found in the *faithful Discharge* of your *Services*, you will have *Returns of Peace* from the Lord, and see that you watch carefully over *your own Families*: And as you live under a *holy Concern*, that all that are under your *Care*, may be preserved within the *Bounds and Limits of Truth*, you will have *signal Tokens* of his *Kindness*. I am glad that the Lord has raised
up

up a People in these *American* Parts, that are concerned that *Truth's Testimony* may be kept up and maintained, and that the *Church of Christ* may flourish yet more and more. O! that it might please the Lord to *encrease* their Number that are fervently and zealously concerned upon this Account.

And, *Friends*, it may be well for you that are the *Heads of Families*, to be careful to stir up your *Children* and *Servants* to be frequent in *Reading of the Holy Scriptures*, and put them in mind to consider what they read; and if you labour to make them truly sensible what will be the *Portion*

tion of the *Lyars* and *Drunk-*
ards, and *proud* and *wicked*
Livers, you may be very In-
 strumental to principle them
 against these Things : And if
 you endeavour to implant it
 in their Minds, what a hap-
 py Thing it is to do well, and
 serve the Lords; and if you
 observe to them, how he has
 favour'd and bleis'd the *Righ-*
teous from one Generation to
 another, this may greatly
 tend to excite them to *Ventu-*
ous Living.
 : And I desire that you that
 are sensible of the Power and
 Vintge of *Truth*, may often
 take seasonable Times to
 wait

wait upon the Lord in your own Families with your *Children* and *Servants*; and as you are truly bowed in Soul before the Lord, that he may be graciously pleased to look down upon you, it may please Him to open his Holy Hand. and minister a suitable Supply to your Wants: For, blessed be his Name, his Regard is great to his People, he has been pleased to give many of them renewed Favours in their Waiting upon him in their own Families: So that they can say from Experience, The Lord is good to the Soul that truly seeks him

him and diligently waits upon him for the fresh Visitations of his Love.

The Disciples were taught to pray for *Daily Bread*, and the Lord has preserved a Remnant in a Holy Sence of the Need they have to receive every Day of that Living Bread which comes down from Above; which can only satisfy the Souls of the Faithful.

So with Desires that the Lord may make you as his *Vineyard*, which he delights to water, and that you may be as a Garden enclosed, into which no hurtful Thing
can

(16)

can come, that so good and
holy Fruits may be broughe
forth, is the fervent Desires of
your Friend and Brother in
the Truth,

Benjamin Holme.

*From the Bay-Side
in Maryland, the
14th of the 4th
Month, 1717.*

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